

Wilmslow Urban District Council.



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ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1937.

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WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1937.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) ALFRED BYERS, M.D.

* Sanitary Inspector and
Meat Inspector G. H. LANCASTER,
A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of
Meat and Other Foods)

* The duties of Building Inspector are also carried out by the
Sanitary Inspector.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	7,705
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population, mid-year 1937	14,240
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937)	4,508
Rateable value.....	£122,040
Sum represented by a penny rate	£481

Social Conditions :

The population is largely residential, many persons being engaged in business in Manchester. There are no large works in the district. The outer part of the area is rural.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births { Legitimate	204	113	91	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 14.6
{ Illegitimate	4	2	2	
Still-births { Legitimate	7	2	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 41.4
{ Illegitimate	2	1	1	
Deaths	157	79	78	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.02

Death-rate corrected for age and sex distribution, for comparison with death-rate for England and Wales, 10.35.

For England and Wales, birth-rate per 1,000 total population	{ Live births 14.9 Still births 0.60
Death-rate per 1,000 total population	12.4

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29—Puerperal sepsis	1	9.2
No. 30—Other puerperal causes	1	9.2

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	33.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	34.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
All infants, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births	58.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	30
„ „ Measles all ages	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age).....	—

Causes of Death during the year

DISEASE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	2	2
Influenza	3	1	4
Cancer	10	20	30
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	—	1
Other digestive disorders	—	2	2
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Liver Disease, other than Cirrhosis	1	2	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5	5	10
Puerperal Disease, other than Sepsis	—	1	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc. ...	4	2	6
Senility	1	5	6
Suicide	3	—	3
Diabetes	2	—	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	5	6	11
Heart Diseases	23	18	41
Aneurysm	1	—	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	5	12
Other Defined Diseases	4	3	7

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

No change.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change.

HOSPITALS.

No change.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

No change. The service is adequate.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

No change.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

GENERAL.

Antitoxin for the treatment of Diphtheria is provided by the Council.

Material for artificial immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for use in necessitous cases.

The following bacteriological examinations were made at the Manchester Public Health Laboratory :

	Total	Positive
Diphtheria (Throat Swabs)	10	—
Tuberculosis (Sputum)	1	—

Examinations made in the Laboratory of the County Council :

	Total	Positive
Tuberculosis (Sputum)	32	5

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	21	6	—
Pneumonia...	8	—	6
Enteric ..	1	—	1

Cases included in the above list occurring in Handforth :

DISEASE						Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1

Additional cases notified from the Styal Cottage Homes :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	5 (including 2 carriers)	

AGE GROUPS.

			—1,	1—,	2—,	3—,	4—,	5—,	10—,	15—,	20—,	35—,	45—,	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	—	3	5	6	11	2	3	1	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	—	2	—
Enteric	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Prevention of Blindness

No action taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury of the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	}	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS		...	5	2	—	2	—	2	—	—

There was one non-notified Tuberculosis death.
Notification is fairly efficient.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade). No action taken.

Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis). No action taken.

ALFRED BYERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

An important extension of the water mains took place in the Morley area, where approximately 3,760 yards of main were laid to meet the need for a satisfactory water supply in this part of the district. Most of the owners of property on the route of the main have made use of the facilities for obtaining water and, by the end of 1937, 64 houses and other premises out of a total of 93 had been connected to the main.

Except for a few isolated farms and buildings, the Stockport Corporation mains now cover the whole of the urban district.

During the year, three samples of water were taken for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. Two of them (both from the same well) were not suitable for potable use and the owner was asked to find another source of supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new extension of sewers was carried out during the year, but the work in connection with the sewerage of Handforth which was in progress at the beginning of the year, was completed.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints were received and no action was taken in connection with the pollution of rivers and streams.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

WILMSLOW.—During the year an effort was made to reduce the number of houses with closets on the conservancy system which are within a reasonable distance of a sewer. As the result of informal action, 22 ashclosets were converted to water closets. There remain 19 ashclosets and 5 pail closets within 100 feet of a sewer still to be dealt with.

HANDFORTH.—When the sewerage of Handforth was completed towards the end of the year, there were about 150 houses with closets on the conservancy system. Property owners were notified that the sewer was completed and ready for use, and they were asked to convert their ashclosets and pail closets to water closets. My requests met with fairly satisfactory results and 45 ashclosets were replaced by water closets. Other owners have promised to provide their houses with modern sanitary conveniences and more work in this direction will be carried out in 1938.

STYAL.—No change has taken place in the district of Styal where there are over 180 pail closets in existence. The pails are emptied weekly by Council men and the contents are disposed of by a local market gardener.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

No change has taken place in the collection and disposal of refuse, which is collected once weekly from houses and disposed of by tipping on land at Newgate, Twinney's Bridge and Handforth.

The Council has made provision for the disposal of refuse for a number of years by purchasing $38\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land in Newgate for the purpose of tipping.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No action taken during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Three complaints were received during the year regarding the emission of smoke in such quantities as to be a nuisance. All the complaints referred to the chimney of the Pumping Station in Manchester Road and after investigation they were referred to the Stockport Corporation Waterworks Department for their attention.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

I am pleased to report that the district is practically free from this species of vermin. It was necessary however to fumigate seven houses in order to rid them of bed bugs. The houses were not badly infested and no further complaints have been received.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in this district.

SCHOOLS.

There has been no change in the sanitary condition or the water supply at the schools in the area.

Sanitary Inspection of the District

The total number of inspections made with respect to each section of the work is as follows :

	Inspection and Visits
HOUSING.	
No. of Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	160
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress	283
No. of Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	89
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress	153

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughterhouses	413
Butchers' Shops, Stalls and other food shops	75
Cowsheds	63
Milkshops and Dairies	55

GENERAL.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces (including Bakehouses)	16
Tents, Vans and Sheds	35
Smoke Abatement Act	4
Shops Act, 1934	1
Infectious Diseases	18
Water Supply	93
Miscellaneous	89
	<hr/>
	1,547
	<hr/>

Arising out of the above inspections it was necessary to serve the following notices :

Informal	162
Statutory	21

COMPLAINTS :

Sixty-one complaints were received in respect of the following matters :-

Accumulations or Burning of Refuse	...	3
Blocked or Defective Drains	... ..	8
Defective condition of Houses	... ..	17
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	... ..	3
Flooding	... ..	4
Overcrowding	... ..	1
Offensive Smells	... ..	4
Insanitary Watercourses	... ..	1
Nuisances from Rats	... ..	3
Nuisances from Vermin	... ..	4
Smoke nuisances	... ..	3
Sale of Unsound Food	... ..	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	... ..	3
Miscellaneous	... ..	6

All complaints were investigated and the necessary action taken to remove the cause of the nuisance.

Housing.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 249

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 436

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... 37

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 153

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 18

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 19

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 7

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:

(A).—Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs I

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners I

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... Nil

(B).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 9

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... Nil

(C).—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5

(D).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING :

- (a)—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the
the year 10
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein 10
- (3) Number or persons dwelling therein 80
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported
during the year 1
- (c)—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during
the year 8
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases... 44
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses
have again become overcrowded after the Local
Authority have taken steps for the abatement of
overcrowding Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding
conditions upon which the Medical Office of Health
may consider it desirable to report — See general
observations below.

General Observations

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE :

Last year I reported that there was a need for the inspection of a larger number of working class houses and pointed out that it is the duty of the local authority to cause their district to be inspected from time to time in order to discover houses needing repair. A slight increase in the number of inspections was made this year and I am of the opinion that there are many more houses not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation but which could be rendered fit at a very reasonable expense. Systematic inspection of this class of property should be carried out without waiting for complaints from the occupiers.

DEMOLITION OF UNFIT HOUSES :

Five houses on which demolition orders had become operative had not been demolished at the end of 1936. The demolition orders on three of the houses in Back Church Street were cancelled and an undertaking accepted from the owner that the houses would not be used for human habitation, and the other two houses in Church Street were demolished.

Of the eighteen houses reported as unfit for human habitation during the year, three were demolished (Dean Row Road 2, Church Street 1), an undertaking was accepted from the owners of two in Dean Road, Handforth, to the effect that they would not be re-let for human habitation, and the remaining thirteen were receiving the Council's attention at the end of the year.

OVERCROWDING :

From the figures given in the Overcrowding Section of the Housing Return, it will be observed that 8 cases of overcrowding were abated and the number of persons con-

cerned in such cases was 44, an average of $5\frac{1}{2}$ persons per house, whilst 10 houses were still overcrowded at the end of the year with a number of occupants totalling 80, an average of 8 per house. This indicates that the largest families have not yet been able to obtain accommodation large enough for their requirements and, although Wilmslow is not troubled with much overcrowding, there are two families of 11 and 12 persons each living in two bedroomed houses.

RENT BOOKS—PERMITTED NUMBERS—It has not been possible owing to the amount of other work to comply with the requirements of Section 62 of the Housing Act, 1936. A large number of landlords and agents have not made application for the permitted numbers with respect to their houses and no steps have been taken to enforce compliance. Consequently many rent books do not contain the maximum number of persons allowed to sleep on the premises and it is possible that some houses may become overcrowded because this number is not known.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY:

Very little change has taken place since last year in the number of producers and retailers of milk on the register which is as follows :-

No. of cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	72
No. of cowkeepers also registered as retail purveyors of milk	...	...	...	...	42
No. of retail purveyors of milk only	...	...	...	...	17
No. of retail purveyors from other districts (included above)	...	...	...	...	6

The main items of work done as the result of my visits to these premises is as follows :

New cowsheds erected	...	...	...	...	2
New dairies erected	...	...	...	...	2
Cowshed floors relaid	...	...	...	...	3
Cowshed walls rendered	...	...	...	...	3
Additional windows to improve lighting	...	...	...	...	3
Cowsheds re-roofed	...	...	...	...	2

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.—

The following licences were granted by this Council under the above Order and continued in operation until 31st December, 1937 :

Dealers' Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealers' Licences to sell "Accredited" Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dealers' Licences to bottle "Accredited" Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1

Supplementary Licences to sell "Accredited"	
Milk	... .. I
Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	I

One sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk and three samples of Accredited Milk were submitted for examination during the year. One sample of Accredited Milk did not conform to the requirements of the Order. The occupier of the bottling establishment was notified of the result and a later sample proved satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods

SLAUGHTERHOUSES:

The number of private slaughterhouses in Wilmslow is 10 and they are situated in all parts of the district. On the death of Mr. J. H. Lomas, in January, 1937, I was appointed to carry out the inspection of meat for the whole district, and the standard adopted was that laid down by the Ministry of Health in a Memorandum on a System of Meat Inspection. I am pleased to report that my decisions of condemnation were accepted by the owners and it was not necessary therefore to seize any carcass or organ during the year.

The number of each class of animal killed is not known as other duties make it impossible to inspect all carcasses slaughtered in the district.

TABLE OF CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	233	68	485	410
All diseases except Tuberculosis— Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	19	—	6	16
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	8.5	—	1.2	4.39
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some parts or organ was condemned	27	—	—	46
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	15.0	—	—	11.7

Meat Condemned and Destroyed

TUBERCULOSIS

BOVINES:

Whole carcasses and offal	...	...	...	8
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	12
Sets of Lungs	...	...	...	16
Livers	...	...	...	10
Mesenteries	...	...	...	6
Udder	...	...	...	1
Spleens	...	...	...	2
Forequarters	...	...	...	3

SWINE:

Whole carcasses and offal	...	...	...	2
Heads	...	...	...	33
Sets of Lungs	...	...	...	4
Livers	...	...	...	1
Plucks	...	...	...	12
Mesenteries	...	...	...	14
Spleens	...	...	...	3
Forequarter	...	...	...	1

Other Conditions

BOVINES:

Whole carcase and offal (Uræmia)	...	...	1
Head and Tongue (Actinomycosis)	...	...	1
Livers (Cirrhosis 2, Distomatosis 7, Abscesses 2, Necrosis 1)	...	...	12

SHEEP:

Plucks (Congestion)	...	...	2
Livers (Distomatosis 2, Parasites 1, Necrosis 1)			4

PIGS:

Whole carcasses and offal (Emaciation and Uræmia)	...	...	2
Hearts (Pericarditis)	...	...	6
Livers (Cirrhosis 5, Congestion 1)	...	...	6
Sets of Lungs (Congestion)	3
Plucks (Congestion)	2

Other Foods

Cooked Ham (Decomposing)	12 lbs.
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SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933:

All animals, including sheep, slaughtered in a slaughter-house in this district, must be stunned by means of a mechanically operated instrument in order to prevent unnecessary suffering. All slaughtermen appear to carry out the provisions of the Act in a satisfactory manner.

There were 29 persons licensed to act as slaughtermen in the district at the end of the year.

BUTCHER'S SHOPS AND STALLS:

One new shop was opened during the year, making a total of 19 butchers' shops in Wilmslow. The shops and the two stalls on the Market have been inspected periodically and the quality of the meat and standard of cleanliness was found to be satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES:

No. of Bakehouses in the District	...	...	19
No action taken.			

FRIED FISH SHOPS:

No. of Fried Fish Shops in the District	...	5
No action taken.		

GAME DEALER'S LICENCES:

Six applications were received from local tradesmen for licences to deal in game, and in each instance a licence was granted.

PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1928:

No. of applications to store petroleum received	...	...	...	...	...	28
No. of licences granted	...	...	...	...	...	28
Quantity of petrol which may be kept on licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	42,820 gals.

These premises are inspected at least annually to see that the conditions attached to the licence are being complied with.

G. H. LANCASTER,
Sanitary Inspector.

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